CLAIMS:

1.   A method of treating a subject having an inflammatory condition, comprising administering to the subject a combination of an effective amount of methotrexate (MTX) and an effective amount of an agonist of the A_3 adenosine receptor (A_3AR agonist).

2.   A method according to Claim 1, wherein MTX is administered to the subject once weekly.

3.   A method according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the A_3AR agonist is administered to subjects between once and a few times a day.

4.   A method according to any one of Claim 1 to 3, wherein the A_3AR agonist is given to the subject orally.

5.   A method according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the A_3AR agonist is IB-MECA or Cl-IB-MECA.

6.   A method according to any one of Claims 3 to 6, wherein a daily dosage of said A_3AR agonist is less than 4 mg.

7.   A method according to Claim 6, wherein a daily dosage of said A_3AR agonist is within the range of about 0.01 to about 2 mg.

8.   A method according to Claim 7, wherein a daily dosage of said A_3AR agonist is within the range of about 0.1 to about 1.5 mg.

9.   A method according to any one of Claims 1 to 8, wherein the inflammatory condition is an autoimmune disorder.

10.   A method according to Claim 10, wherein said autoimmune disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.

11.   The method according to Claim 10, wherein said A_3AR agonist is IB-MECA.

12.   A method of treating a subject having an inflammatory condition and treated with MTX, comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of an A_3AR agonist.

13. A method of treating a subject having an inflammatory condition and indicated for treatment with an A₃AR agonist, comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of MTX.

14. A method according to Claim 12 or 13, wherein the A₃AR agonist is administered to the subject between once and a few times a day.

15. A method according to any one of Claims 12 to 14, wherein the A₃AR agonist is given to the subject orally.

16. A method according to any one of Claims 12 to 15, wherein the A₃AR agonist is IB-MECA or Cl-IB-MECA.

17. A method according to any one of Claims 12 to 16, wherein a daily dosage of said A₃AR agonist is less than 4 mg.

18. A method according to Claim 17, wherein a daily dosage of said A₃AR agonist is within the range of about 0.01 to about 2 mg.

19. A method according to Claim 18, wherein a daily dosage of said A₃AR agonist is within the range of about 0.1 to about 1.5 mg.

20. A method according to any one of Claims 12 to 19, wherein the inflammatory condition is an autoimmune disorder.

21. A method according to Claim 20, wherein said autoimmune disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.

22. Use of an A₃AR agonist for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for treating a subject having an inflammatory condition and being treated with MTX.

23. Use of MTX for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for treating a subject having an inflammatory condition and being treated with an A₃AR agonist.

24. Use according to Claim 22 or 23, wherein said inflammatory condition is an autoimmune disorder.

25. Use according to Claim 14, wherein said autoimmune disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.

26. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of an inflammatory condition and being treated with MTX, comprising an effective amount of A_3AR agonist.

27. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 26, comprising a physiologically acceptable carrier for oral delivery of said A_3AR agonist.

28. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 26 or 27, wherein said A_3AR agonist is IB-MECA or Cl-IB-MECA.

29. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 28, comprising less than 4 mg of said A_3AR agonist.

30. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 28, comprising less than 4 mg of said A_3AR agonist.

31. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 28, comprising between about 0.01 to about 2 mg of said A_3AR agonist.

32. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 28, comprising between about 0.1 to about 1.5 mg of said A_3AR agonist.

33. A pharmaceutical composition for treating a patient having an inflammatory condition and being treated with MTX, comprising an effective amount of an A3AR agonist.

34. A pharmaceutical composition according to any one of Claims 26 to 33, wherein the inflammatory condition is an autoimmune disorder.

35. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 34, wherein said autoimmune disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.

36. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 35, wherein said A_3AR agonist is IB-MECA.